

**ALLORA MAJOR (ROTHSCHILD) (LEPIDOPTERA: HESPERIIDAE):
A BUTTERFLY RECOGNISED IN AUSTRALIA FOR THE FIRST TIME**

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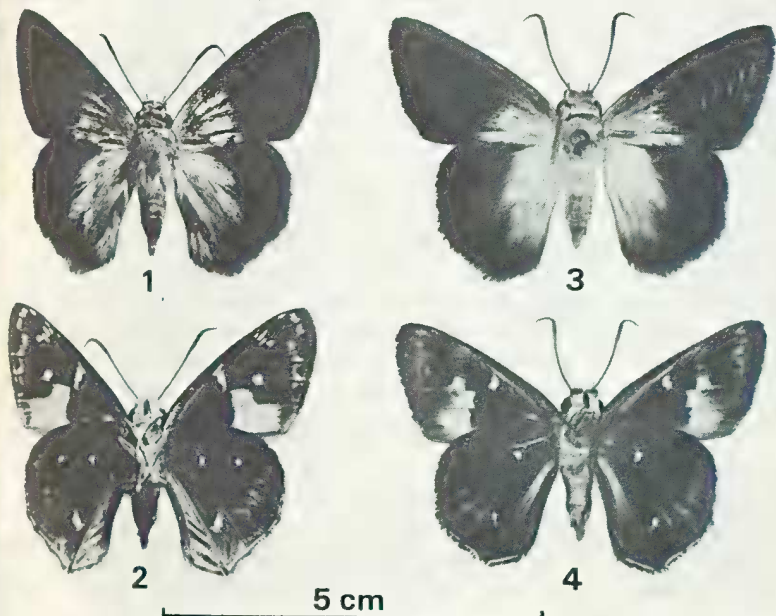
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Abstract

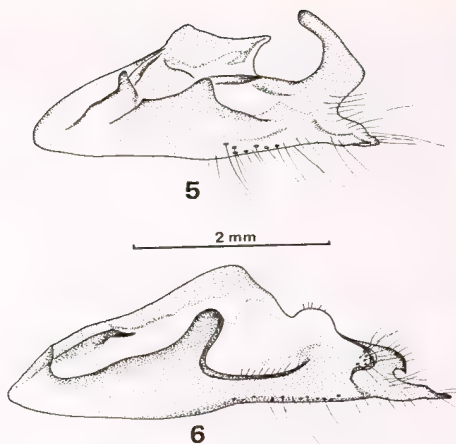
Allora major (Rothschild) (Lepidoptera: HesperIIDae) is recorded from northern Queensland. The specimens are provisionally determined as the subspecies *major* (Rothschild), known previously from mainland Papua New Guinea and Irian Jaya.

Male specimens of *Allora* Waterhouse and Lyell collected near the Claudie River, northern Queensland, were found to differ on the underside from specimens of *Allora doleschallii doleschallii* (Felder) taken at localities between Mackay and Torres Strait. Examination of their genitalia confirmed that they belonged to a different species.

Evans (1949) included two species in the genus *Allora*, *A. major* (Rothschild) and *A. doleschallii* (Felder), and figured the male genitalia of both; however his text descriptions of the "cuiller" or ampulla of the valva did not agree with his figures. One of us (D.P.A.S.) has re-examined the specimens in the British Museum (Natural History) that were studied by Evans and concluded that his illustrations, but not his text descriptions of the valvae, conform with the species discussed.



Figs 1-4. *Allora* spp. (1) *A. major* (Rothschild), male from Claudie River, northern Queensland, upperside; (2) the same, underside; (3) *A. doleschallii* (Felder), male from Thursday Island, northern Queensland, upperside; (4) the same, underside.



Figs 5, 6. Valvae of male genitalia: (5) *A. major* (Rothschild), male from Claudie River, northern Qld; (6) *A. doleschallii* (Felder), male from Thursday Is., northern Qld.

The Claudie River specimens were identified as *A. major*, the valva possessing an ampulla with a dorsal, right-angled, upturned projection (Fig. 5). The ampulla of *A. doleschallii* is shorter, extends posteriorly, and is slightly folded distally (Fig. 6).

In Australia, *A. major* (Fig. 1) is similar on the upperside to *A. doleschallii* (Fig. 2), both being black with iridescent blue-green basal areas, but is slightly larger (*A. major* forewing length, 24.0 mm, 5♂♂ specimens; *A. doleschallii* forewing length, 21.0-23.0 mm, 6♂♂ specimens). However, the two species can be distinguished by the pattern of spots on the underside: in *major*, the outer edge of the cell spot of the forewing is in line with the inner margin of the large subternal spots (Fig. 3), while in *doleschallii* the cell spot is proximal to the inner margin of these spots (Fig. 4). In fresh specimens of *A. major* the underside of both wings has a strong greenish tint, which is faint or absent in Australian specimens of *A. doleschallii*.

We have compared specimens of *A. major* from the Claudie River with specimens collected near Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and propose to retain Australian specimens in the subspecies *major* (Rothschild). In Australia *A. major* has, to date, been collected only near the Claudie River where *A. doleschallii* has not yet been taken. Both species occur together in Papua New Guinea, although *major* extends to higher altitudes.

Acknowledgements

We are grateful to Mr G. B. Monteith for allowing dissection of specimens in the University of Queensland reference collection, Dr A. Sibatani for loan of specimens, and Mr R. I. Vane-Wright for allowing examination of specimens in the British Museum (Natural History). Mr B. Stewart kindly took the photographs for Figs 1 and 3, and Mrs S. Sands drew Figs 5 and 6.

Reference

Evans, W. H., 1949. *A catalogue of the Hesperiidæ from Europe, Asia and Australia in the British Museum (Natural History)*. xix + 502 pp., 53 pls. (Br. Mus. Nat. Hist., Lond.)